

# **RAB Minutes**

NAS North Island

Restoration Advisory Board

## **Introduction**

The thirty-ninth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting for Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island was held on Thursday, September 25, 1997, at the Coronado Public Library from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Arno Bernardo, Navy Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and welcomed RAB and community members.

RAB attendance: A. Bernardo, L. Ewen, A. Gimeno, L. Hunter, S. Kaupp, R. Mach, D. Marron

Public attendance: J. Bailey, R. Basinet, M. Bonsavage, N. Clements, B. Collins, R. Corral, D. DeMars, E. Kleeman, V. Mayer, M. Mingay, R. Mello, S. Morris, D. Newberry, A. Parsons, M. Trizinsky, C. Turlington,

## **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 21, 1997 RAB MEETING**

The minutes were approved.

## **RAB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - Laura Hunter**

The contracts have been let. Ecological Consultants for the Public Interest, a firm out of Colorado, will be reviewing Sites 9, 10 and 11. The Air Toxics Health Risk Assessment will be performed by Robert Sears from Ojai, California. The Site 1 review, the sediments in the bay, was awarded to the University of Maryland. The Ecological Health Risk Assessment on Site 1 was deferred, because there was not enough money to issue the contract. Ms. Hunter thanked the subcommittee, the Navy, their contracting office, Captain Mello and the Command for their hard work and cooperation. The first report will be at the December RAB meeting on the health risk assessment. There will be further reports in January, February and March.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION, NAVY (ER,N) FUNDING PROCESS [Ms. Cindy Turlington from Chief of Naval Operations, Installation Restoration Branch]**

Ms. Turlington delivered a presentation on how the budget process works. She discussed the Budget Enforcement Act, and informed the RAB that 2.2% of the Navy's approximately \$75 billion budget goes toward environmental. She explained the decision-making procedure. There was a discussion of how the RAB can influence budget decisions.

## **SITE 9 NoVOCs DEMONSTRATION [Dave DeMars, Remedial Project Manager]**

Background: The Navy has submitted the RAP addendum to the DTSC (Department of Toxic Substance Control). Mr. DeMars was informed that the approval letter will go out next week. The

final version of the RAP addendum will be public noticed in the San Diego Union Tribune and the two Coronado newspapers. It will not go out for public comment, but the RAB does have input.

The Navy has received verbal approval from DTSC to proceed with the solvents in the NoVOCs well and the monitoring wells. Installation begin October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Utility hookups should be complete on October 13<sup>th</sup>. EG&G will bring in their control equipment next, and the Thermatrix unit should arrive in early November. Start-up is planned for November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Hunter asked if the Thermatrix unit was part of the demonstration, and Mr. DeMars replied that it was not. He brought a document describing how Radian, Inc. will test the Thermatrix unit. This has already gone to the Navy for review, and will be sent to the Air Pollution Control District tomorrow. They will test for VOCs, HCL gas, NOXCL, dioxin, DAH's, phenols, formaldehyde and keytones. Ms. Hunter inquired about testing frequency. Mr. DeMars referred to Table 1, Summary of Test Methods, in the RAP addendum. In response to a follow-up question on where tests will take place he indicated that most tests will occur at the scrubber outlet; VOCs will be tested at both the thermal oxidizer inlet and the outlet. Once the levels decrease to the point that they can no longer detect what's coming out of the Thermatrix system, a different, more costly test with a lower detection unit will be used. The levels are set by the Air Pollution Control District and the State of California.

Ms. Kaupp asked about the extent of construction and the amount of traffic. Mr. DeMars said that it will take about a week to build the Thermatrix well and the 5 monitoring wells. The soil displaced in construction will also be treated. The water from the wells will be tested and, if necessary, put through the on-base treatment plant.

Ms. Hunter inquired about the Thermatrix Engineering Evaluation that was included with the mailing of the minutes and agenda. Mr. Collins explained that it was an explanation of how dioxins normally form, and that the Thermatrix unit will be operated at a temperature high enough to allow complete combustion so that dioxins do not form. Ms. Trizinsky added that the Thermatrix system makes the 3 possibilities listed highly unlikely. Ms. Hunter asked for a report on dioxin results, and Mr. DeMars gave an overview of the Thermatrix system. Ms. Hunter said that she appreciated that there will be testing for dioxins.

#### **SITE 11 DRAFT CORRECTIVE MEASURES STUDY/ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY - William E. Collins, SWDiv**

Background: Site 11 is in the middle of Coronado Island, where waste, surface impoundments, industrial and oily waste were treated from the mid 1970's until 1987. There was some leakage of solvents into the groundwater. Study of the groundwater has shown that it would be well over 100 years before that water reaches the bay. In addition the plume is static and more than 25 feet down. There is no human contact, and no water is pumped from the middle of the island. Current methods for remediation of groundwater amount to leaving it where it is. There are some potential plans, one involving using the present monitoring system over the next several years. Another is to install additional wells. Any groundwater movement would be very slow and would allow time to install groundwater pumping wells and treating it. For the past year, the Navy has operated a soil extraction unit. It was shut down in April, after removal of about 4500 pounds of VOCs, although some have remained as vapors have remained as vapors. Petroleum compounds were also removed. There are some pockets that contain heavy metals, and also some TPH. There are no PCBs at this site.

The future options include stabilizing the metals on site, which is expensive, or shipping it off site, which involves trucks going through Coronado. Also possible is doing nothing (an alternative the EPA always mentions), which is the baseline alternative. This is not a viable option - the Navy

realizes that action must be taken on this site. Other possibilities are capping the area, filling in the pits and then capping it, digging up and treating certain soil pockets and crushing concrete. Costs for all these options were presented, ranging from nothing to \$4 million.

This feasibility study has been sent to the State. The Navy plans to meet with them sometime late this year or early next year and come to an agreement over the best method. At that point it will be brought back to the RAB.

Ms. Hunter asked whether this was a draft or the final version. Mr. Collins replied that this is an excerpt from the final document, originally drafted in 1995. The document was prepared as part of the closure plan for IWTP[?]. The rules and standards have changed since cleanup began. Within the next year the Navy will want to remediate the site, completing the closure. At that time comments will be solicited. Ms. Hunter suggested that the RAB read the final report if it has any interest in the site.

#### MERCURY SPILL REMOVAL CLOSEOUT REPORT - Mark Bonsavage, Remedial Project Manager

Background: On July 1<sup>st</sup>, a Mystic deep submergence rescue vehicle spilled 8 pounds of mercury into the bay, in a 27 X 15 foot area at berth Oscar, along the quay wall. The cleanup site, an approximately 300 square foot area, had a goal of .71 PPM (parts per million). The final result was .55 PPM as a logarithmic . 575 tons of sediment was treated with 3 different methods of dredging the bottom - eductor, clam shell and air induction at a cost of \$1.71 million.

Ms. Hunter said that the site was made much worse by the carrier coming in and out and asked who paid for the cleanup. Mr. Collins said that the Pacific Fleet paid for it, and that it did not come out of any environmental program or restoration funds, that the offending party was responsible. Mr. Mach added that it was charged to compliance. She inquired about the outcome of the seaman trial, and Mr. Bonsavage said he would look into it.

#### FINAL SITE 9 REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION ADDENDUM PLAN [Bill Collins]

Mr. Collins reported that he would have the revised plan tomorrow, and the final work plan should be mailed to DTSC and the Water Board next week. The plan will allow the Navy to determine what groundwater is leaking into the bay. Wells will be installed south of the site, on the bay side, and porewater sampling of sediments will be taken. This is done with a ¼ inch stainless steel tube which divers put into the ground about 5 feet deep. This then allows for water samples.

Ms. Hunter asked what happens if one cleanup requires less funds. Mr. Collins replied that the Command can spend it on cleanup elsewhere on the base.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ms. Hunter said she had some questions concerning the Draft Final Work Plan on Site 5, particularly whether or not natural attenuation is or is not the remediation strategy, since there are contradictory statements in the work plan. Mr. Magee suggested Dave DeMars present that project briefing at the October RAB. Mr. Mach suggested asking Michael Collins attend as well to present some of the more technical aspects.

Items for October RAB Meeting Agenda:

**Site 5 remediation strategy - D. DeMars, M. Collins**

**1998 Budget - B. Collins**

**Thermatrix dioxin testing results**

**The last RAB Meeting for 1997 will be held Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.**